



In Cooperation With:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.
Rutgers University

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The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period August 2, 2004, through August 8, 2004, is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to total near normal.

Temperatures averaged below normal, averaging 72 degrees north, 74 degrees central and 75 degrees south. Extremes were 91 degrees at Canoe Brook on July 23, 2004, and 58 degrees at Charlotteburg and Freehold on July 22, 2004, and July 26, 2004.

Weekly rainfall averaged 1.33 inches north, 0.79 inches central, and 0.15 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.08 inches at Flemington on July 23, 2004, through July 24, 2004.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 92 percent north, 73 percent central, and 68 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 72 degrees north, 73 degrees central, and 74 degrees south.

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week						
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches -				- Degrees -				- Base 50°F -		
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	.26	17.12	-1.75	88	60	74	0	1682	248	74
Canoe Brook	1.97	22.16	2.20	91	60	74	-1	1830	408	94
Charlotteburg	1.56	22.38	2.25	86	58	71	-2	1553	378	92
Flemington	2.08	27.13	7.82	89	59	72	-2	1724	252	96
Long Valley	1.30	19.80	-.87	84	60	70	-3	1487	234	93
Newton	.80	18.75	.33	87	59	71	-2	1577	294	92
CENTRAL										
Freehold	.49	20.93	2.19	89	58	73	-2	1867	285	79
Long Branch	.01	18.19	-.44	85	65	74	-1	1686	181	48
New Brunswick	1.46	21.99	3.34	88	61	73	-3	1830	161	96
Toms River	.16	21.08	1.93	88	63	75	0	1921	409	42
Trenton	1.84	18.94	1.13	88	64	74	-3	1902	167	88
SOUTH										
Cape May C.H.	.12	16.58	.03	86	65	74	-2	1830	219	48
Downstown	.24	18.83	1.42	88	64	74	-3	1977	230	65
Glassboro	.21	28.01	9.59	88	65	75	-1	2096	373	64
Hammonton	.04	20.03	1.62	90	63	75	-2	2045	324	54
Pomona	.02	16.65	.07	88	64	76	0	1956	354	41
Seabrook	.25	23.18	6.34	87	63	75	-2	2194	440	66
South Harrison	.64	22.71	4.09	87	65	75	NA	2083	NA	NA

*Departure from normal.
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, 2004, total and departure from normal or long term average.
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

Wet Weather Conditions Benefitted Corn and Soybean Crops

Days suitable for field work for the week ending Sunday, July 25, 2004, were 5.4. Temperatures across the state were variable during the week. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week across most of the state. Soil moisture was rated 100% adequate. Fieldwork included baling hay, vegetable harvesting, picking fruit, applying fertilizer, and spraying herbicides. Spider mite activity was reported in some soybean fields in the central district. Recently received rainfall benefitted field corn development. Rains lowered hay quality and forage production in many localities and made harvest activities challenging. There were reports of leaf hoppers in alfalfa hay fields in the central and southern districts. Harvest of beets, carrots, eggplant, savoy cabbage, Swiss chard, kale, arugula, dandelion, mint, basil, parsley, cilantro, leeks, green onions, squash, and zucchini continued in the southern district. Disease problems were reported, including downy mildew. There was a report from the southern district that some pumpkins suffered hail damaged. Cantaloupe harvest continued, and there were reports of some cracking due to moisture in the central district, and some disease problems evident in northern fields. Cucumber harvest continued, and mildew problems were reported in some northern localities. In the central district, it was reported that some snap bean plants had been damaged by the rain; and some tomatoes displayed cracking due to weather conditions. Potato harvest began across the state with crop condition ratings of fair to good. Sweet potato vine growth was reported as vigorous. Peach harvest continued, and there was a report of some cracking, due to moisture, in northern orchards. Apple harvest began in the southern district. Increased threat of hoof disease in cattle herds remained strong.

Jersey Fresh Availability for July 26, 2004

Acorn & Spaghetti Squash - Harvesting a fair volume of good quality product.

Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach - Harvesting in good quality and volume. Not that affected by the heat.

Basil - Harvesting good quality and volume.

Beets - Harvesting good quality and fair volume.

Blueberries - End of the season. Bluecrop variety finishing up. The late variety Elliott will be available for a few weeks in fair volume. Fruit quality and size are very good.

Butternut Squash - Normally a fall item, growers planted them earlier this year for harvest when there's less supply and better prices to farmers. Harvesting a fair volume of good quality product.

Cabbage - Good quality Red, Savoy, and Green being harvested in major quantities.

Cantaloupes - Good quality and volume.

Cilantro - Harvesting good quality and volume.

Cucumbers - Harvesting good quality and volume.

Dandelions - Spring planted Pasquale variety available in good volume.

Dill & Spinach - Harvesting fair to good quality of Spinach and Dill in decreasing volume with the increased temperatures.

Eggplant - Planted a bit later this year due to wet and cool spring conditions, they've ripened early. Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.

Escarole/Endive - Harvesting a fair to decreasing volume of fair to good quality product.

Green Onions - Good quality and fair to good volume.

Greens - Good quality and volume of Collards, Kholrabi, Kale, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard.

Leeks - Good quality Spring planted being harvested in good volume.

Nectarines - The early variety Summer Beaut is now being harvested. The desirable Sunglo variety should start next week with volume expected early next month. All fruit finish and quality is very good. Fruit size will be mostly the 2 1/4" and 2 1/2" sizes.

Parsley & Mint - Good quality and quantity available.

Peaches - All varieties are being harvested earlier than normal and excellent quality and flavor are due to the nice mix of sun and occasional rain that we've been receiving. Fruit size will be mostly 2 ¼" and the 2 ½" size and a few 2 ¾" size. The yellow Redhaven varieties are being harvested in good volume. Some John Boy and Early Loring peaches also being harvested. The early white variety White Lady is being harvested in limited quantity this week with volume expected next week. The new white peach varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them.

Peppers - Planted a bit later this year due to wet and cool spring conditions, they've ripened early. Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.

Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) - Good quality and quantity available.

Squashes - Good quality Yellow and Zucchini are being harvested in good quantities.

Sweet Corn - Harvesting very good quality and good volume. Peak of the season. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to Fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes - Tomatoes were planted a week or two later this year due to cool and wet spring planting conditions yet started earlier than usual due to a lack of early frost exposure and favorable growing conditions. Good quantity and very good quality available this week. Plum tomatoes are also available in good volume with similar very good quality.

White Potatoes - The Redskin variety Norland and Superior round varieties being harvested. There will be a large crop of good quality potatoes this year. Source your New Jersey white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags. A number of chain stores have made large displays of these and they've sold quite well.